

Time capsule preserves lab's history, aspirations

by Timothy Anderl, AFRL Headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO – Major General Richard R. Paul, commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory suspended time as he buried a capsule on April 4 at 9 a.m.

The capsule, which Paul said will provide a glimpse into the past and anticipated future of the laboratory, will be opened in 2025.

"We out and out borrowed this idea from ASC, who recently buried their own time capsule in front of Building 14 [Wright-Patterson AFB, Area B]," Paul said. "When I saw their time capsule initiative, I thought, 'What a great way to start the 2000's – so we're going to do the same thing."

"Almost all of AFRL's current leadership has been here since its inception," Paul added. "The beginning of this endeavor [1997] is fresh in our memories. We'd like to preserve some of our accomplishments and questions to remind future leaders of the lab's history."

The capsule included a diverse collection of contents including: a photograph of AFRL's corporate board; an AFRL organizational chart, map of key locations, timeline, FY00 budget; the premier issue of *AFRL Technology Horizons Magazine*; issues of Air Force Materiel Command's *Leading Edge Magazine* and *Aviation Week* that featured AFRL; base and local papers; an item from each of the Technical Directorates; an AFRL coin and corporate logos; a list of predictions for 2025, which is made by the AFRL Command Section and Technical Directors; and a list of questions AFRL personnel hope are answered by 2025.

"We have significant aspirations for the future, however, remembering and recognizing our past is important in achieving future goals," Paul said. "We hope that the contents of the time capsule will help future leaders to reflect on their last 25 years and to identify goals for the next 25 years."



A PROPER BURIAL — Capt. Tim Schulteis and 1st Lt. James Harlow lower the Air Force Research Laboratory time capsule to its resting place. The location of the buried capsule, which included information about the laboratory, will be identified with an engraved marker with instruction to open it in 2025.

The capsule measures 14 x 14 x 22 inches with an opening at the top. It was buried outside of Bldg. 15, Area B, parallel to a similar capsule that the Aeronautical Systems Center buried in December 1999. The burial spot is identified with an engraved marker with instructions to exhume in 2025. @